

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a multi-dimensional data structure in order to access data stored at a plurality of data sources, said plurality of data sources being disparate, having disparate source data structures, and having a different number of dimensions than said multi-dimensional data structure, said method comprising:

defining at least one dimension and a dimension value associated with the at

least one dimension for said multi-dimensional data structure;

creating a plurality of combinations of dimension values,

wherein a combination defines a data item,

wherein the plurality of combinations comprise a first set of data items and

a second set of data items,

wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by the dimensions

associated with the first set of data items, and

wherein the second set of data items comprises data items associated

with the dimensions associated with the plurality of data sources;

mapping data items in the first set of data items in said multi-dimensional data

structure to corresponding data items in the second set of data items;

determining a ~~location of a~~ data gap wherein the mapping step results in

~~comprising~~ a difference between the dimension characteristics of the first

set of data items and the second set of data items;

bridging the gap by at least one of the following:

obtaining, from one of the plurality of data sources, a further data item for mapping to one of the data items in the first set, wherein the further data item is not originally obtainable in the second set of data items and is generated from one or more of the plurality of data sources; modifying the multi-dimensional data structure to be further defined by the second set of data items; [[and]] or

converting a source data structure in at least one of the plurality of data sources into a source data structure defined by at least one data item in the first set of data items; and

documenting how the gap was bridged; and

creating a mapping file for historic data conversion, wherein the mapping file is

configured to store relationships between data items in historical data

sources for use in generating new data items from historical data sources.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said gap is bridged at said plurality of data sources.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising defining an attribute and an attribute value associated with the attribute for said multi-dimensional data structure, wherein the attribute is assigned to a single dimension.

5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said creating the combinations includes linking two or more dimensions for said combination created.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said mapping includes mapping the combination to a data structure for one of the data sources.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a report, wherein said report is a combination report, a hierarchy report, or a mapping report.
10. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine, said instructions for generating a new multi-dimensional chart of accounts that is used to access data stored at a plurality of source charts of accounts, wherein said plurality of source charts of accounts are disparate, have disparate source data structures, and has a different number of dimensions than said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts, the program storage device executing the method comprising:

defining at least one dimension and a dimension value associated with the at least one dimension for said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts;
creating a plurality of combinations of dimension values,
wherein a combination defines a data item,
wherein the plurality of combinations comprise a first set of data items and a second set of data items,
wherein said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts is defined by the dimensions associated with the first set of data items,
wherein the second set of data items comprises data items associated with the dimensions associated with the plurality of source charts of accounts;
mapping data items in the first set of data items in said new multidimensional chart of accounts to corresponding data items in the second set of data items;
determining a ~~location of a~~ data gap wherein the mapping step results in comprising a difference between the dimension characteristics of the ~~comprising~~ [[said]] first set of data items and the second set of data items;
bridging the gap by at least one of the following:
obtaining, from one of the plurality of source charts of accounts, a further data item for mapping to one of the data items in the first set,
wherein the further data item is not originally obtainable in the second set of data items and is generated from one or more of the plurality of source charts of accounts;

modifying the new multi-dimensional chart of accounts to be further
defined by the second set of data items; [[and]] or
converting a source data structure in at least one of the plurality of source
charts of accounts into a source data structure defined by at least
one data item in the first set of data items; and
documenting how the gap was bridged; and
creating a mapping file for historic data conversion, wherein the mapping file is
configured to store relationships between data items in historical source
charts of accounts for use in generating new data items from historical
source charts of accounts.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein said gap is bridged at said plurality of source charts of accounts.

13. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises defining an attribute and an attribute value associated with the attribute for said multi-dimensional chart of accounts, wherein the attribute is assigned to a single dimension.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein said dimension is at least one of a dimension for a product, an industry classification and a maturity.
16. (Original) The program storage device of claim 15, wherein said dimension value associated with said product dimension is one of corporate loans, mortgages, home credits and personal loans.
17. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein said method further comprises linking two or more dimensions for a created combination.
18. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 17, wherein said method further comprises mapping a combination for a dimension value to said plurality of source charts of accounts.
19. (Cancelled) .
20. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises generating a report, wherein said report is a combination report, a hierarchy report, or a mapping report.
21. (Currently Amended) A tool for generating a multi-dimensional data structure for integrating data stored at a plurality of data sources, said plurality of data sources being

disparate, having disparate source data structures, and having a different number of dimensions than said multi-dimensional data structure, said tool comprising:

a relational database;

a processor;

a data structure generator, wherein said data structure generator defines at least one dimension and a dimension value associated with the at least one dimension;

a combination module for creating and retrieving a plurality of combinations of dimension values,

wherein a combination defines a data item,

wherein the plurality of combinations comprise a first set of data items and a second set of data items,

wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by the dimensions associated with the first set of data items, and

wherein the second set of data items comprise data items associated with the dimensions associated with the plurality of data sources;

a mapping module for mapping data items in the first set of data items in the multi-dimensional data structure to corresponding data items in the second set of data items;

a gap detector for detecting a data gap wherein the mapping step results in ~~comprising~~ a difference between the dimension characteristics of the first set of data items and the second set of data items; and

a gap resolver for facilitating bridging of the gap by at least one of the following:

obtaining, from one of the plurality of data sources, a further data item for
mapping to one of the data items in the first set, wherein the further
data item is not originally obtainable in the second set of data items
and is generated from one or more of the plurality of data sources;
modifying the multi-dimensional data structure to be further defined by the
second set of data items; [[and]] or
converting a source data structure in at least one of the plurality of data
sources into a source data structure defined by at least one data
item in the first set of data items; and
wherein the gap detector and resolver document how gaps are bridged;
and
a mapping file module for creating a mapping file used for historic data
conversion, wherein the mapping file module is configured to store
relationships between data items in historical data sources for use in
generating new data items from historical data sources.

22. (Original) The tool of claim 21, wherein said tool is in communication with said plurality of data sources via an electronic network.

23. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 21, wherein said gap is bridged at said plurality of data sources.

24. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 21, wherein said combination module creates the combination by linking two or more dimensions.
25. (Cancelled).
26. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 21, further comprising a report generator for generating a report, wherein said report is a combination report, a hierarchy report, or a mapping report.
27. (Canceled).
28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the multi-dimensional data structure comprises a centralized database.
29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.
30. (Cancelled).
31. (Previously Presented) A program storage device according to claim 10, wherein the multidimensional chart of accounts comprises a centralized database.

32. (Previously Presented) A program storage device according to claim 31, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) A tool according to claim 21, wherein the multi-dimensional data structure comprises a centralized database.

36. (Previously Presented) A tool according to claim 35, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.

37-42. (Canceled)